THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN

KODANSHA COMICS

CHAPTER 49

YOSHIKI TANAKA
HIROMU ARAKAWA

YOUR MAJESTY KING KARIKALA !!

YOUR MAJESTY !!

YOUR MAJ-ESTY!

BRING HOT WATER, AND WARM MILK MIXED WITH EGG!

HOT WATER!

OHH ...!!

WAS I ASLEEP FOR SO VERY LONG...?

WHAT'S THIS FUSS?

Chapter 49
King Karikala's Decision

IS THAT YOU, SALIMA ?

GADHEVI IS NOT HERE?

GAD-HEVI IS...

HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!

CRINGG

THUD

ROLL ゴロ ゴロ ROLL

WHOA ...!

BAROOM!

TUMBLE

PART II

DAP

KREE

HMPH ...

THAT IS JAS-WANT!

DO NOT SHOOT !!

WAAAAAAAAA

あ あ あ あ あ あ あ あ

THIS IS THE SECOND TIME YOU HAVE SPARED THAT MAN.

I HOPE HE HAS A HEART THAT FEELS GRATITUDE FOR HIS DEBTS...

おおおお

THIS HAP-
PENED
BECAUSE
I CARRIED
THINGS
OUT AS
YOU
SAID...!!

YES,
SIR?

MA-
HEN-
DRA...

DID YOU NOT HAVE ANY BETTER IDEAS?!

MY STRATEGY WAS TOO LAX...

...TRULY ...

HMPH! IS THAT TRULY SO?

ABOVE ALL, THE CAPITAL'S WALLS CANNOT BE BREACHED EASILY!

IF WE GATHER OUR DEFEATED FORCES, WE HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH MILITARY STRENGTH TO FIGHT RAJENDRA'S ARMY.

HOWEVER, THERE ARE STILL THE UNSCATHED SOLDIERS IN THE CASTLE.

THE CAPITAL'S WALLS? WHO KNOWS IF THEY CAN HOLD!

THE EL-EPHANTRY WAS UNDEFEATED AND SAID TO BE INVINCIBLE, AND LOOK HOW THAT TURNED OUT!

Y... YES, SIR!!

CRACK

HURRY UP! RUN!!

YOUR HIGH-NESS ...

AT ANY RATE, YOU FIX THIS!! I'M RE-TURNING TO THE CASTLE TO REST!!

IT WAS NOTH-ING...

JAS-YOU DID WELL PRO-TECTING HIS HIGH-NESS. WANT.

...DID HIS HIGHNESS OFFER YOU ANY WORDS OF GRATITUDE?

NOT A SINGLE WORD...

NO...

THERE IS MUCH I MUST DO ONCE WE RETURN TO THE CASTLE.

LAMENTING WON'T HELP.

I MAY HAVE CHOSEN THE WRONG HUSBAND FOR MY DAUGHTER...

I AM BUT A MAN OF POOR ABILITY, BUT I SWEAR I WILL MAKE MYSELF OF USE TO YOUR GRACE.

I AM GRATEFUL TO HEAR IT.

I'M DEPENDING ON YOU, JASWANT.

HIS MAJESTY KING KARI-KALA HAS REGAINED CONSCIOUS-NESS!!

TH-THUMP

TH-THUMP

NEWS!

I BRING NEWS!

TH-THUMP

TH-THUMP

TH-THUMP

TH-THUMP

GADHEVI. I AM PLEASED TO SEE THAT YOU LOOK WELL YOURSELF.

I HEAR THAT SALIMA VISITED MY SICKBED EVERY DAY.

FATHER! I AM GLAD TO SEE YOU WELL AGAIN!

NOTHING COULD BRING ME MORE JOY THAN THIS!

NOW, THEN.

ARE YOU STILL PHI-LANDER-ING WITH WOMEN, AS USUAL?

RAJEN-DRA. YOU, TOO, SEEM WELL.

OF ALL THINGS, HE THREW IN WITH PARS, THE TRAITOR!!

THE MOMENT YOU FELL UNCONSCIOUS, HE LAID HIS TRUE AMBITIONS BARE, AND TURNED SINDHURA INTO A BATTLE-GROUND!!

RAJENDRA IS AN OUT-RAGEOUS MAN, FATHER!

THE ATTENDANTS TOLD ME OF THE STATE OF MY KINGDOM.

WILL YOU EXPLAIN WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

GRIT

YOU ARE THE ONE WHO BROUGHT PARS INTO THIS FIRST, GADHEVI!!

BECAUSE YOU GOT OVERAMBITIOUS AND ATTACKED PESHAWAR FORTRESS, THE PARSIAN ARMY TURNED ITS GAZE ON US!!

WHAT?! IF YOU HADN'T GOTTEN IN MY WAY, I WOULD HAVE DEFEATED THE PARSIAN ARMY HANDILY!!

IF I HADN'T COAXED THE PARSIAN PRINCE INTO AN ALLIANCE, THE ENTIRE PARSIAN ARMY WOULD HAVE INVADED OUR KINGDOM, AND WE'D HAVE SOMETHING EVEN MORE BLOODY ON OUR HANDS!!

ME?!

YOU TOOK ADVANTAGE OF FATHER'S UNCONSCIOUSNESS TO TEAM UP WITH MAHENDRA AND TAKE THE REINS OF THE STATE AS YOU WISHED!

HANDILY? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH! EVERYONE IN THE KINGDOM KNOWS WHAT BECAME OF OUR ELEPHANTRY!

YOU EVEN LOST THE DIVINE ELEPHANT THAT YOU BORROWED FROM FATHER! YOU'LL FACE DIVINE PUNISHMENT!

WHAT?!

I AM CERTAIN THAT FATHER FELL INTO THAT COMA BECAUSE YOU SLIPPED HIM SOME SHADY DRUG, GADHEVI!

I, THE ELDEST SON, FOUGHT AS FATHER'S SUBSTITUTE IN ORDER TO SHOW WHAT IS RIGHTEOUS!

AND BESIDES, THAT WAS ONLY BECAUSE PARS USED A COWARDLY STRATEGY...

YOU ARE THE COWARD!!

NAY! FATHER LIKED ME BETTER!

IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED, I WOULD HAVE BECOME THE OFFICIAL CROWN PRINCE!

YOU WOULD DO THAT, NOT I!

THAT'S A WASTE OF TIME.

NO.

DID MY FATHER MAHENDRA TELL YOU TO WAIT?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT IN THE COLD?

JAS-WANT...

I DO NOT UNDER-STAND POLITICS ...

I AM WAITING SO THAT, AT THE VERY LEAST, IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, I CAN ACT FOR HIS GRACE MAHENDRA'S SAKE THAT MUCH SOONER...

I WOULD RISK MY LIFE!

AH! NO, MY LADY! OF COURSE, FOR HIS HIGHNESS, TOO!

YOU WON'T ACT FOR MY HUSBAND GADHEVI'S SAKE?

...I KNOW NOT MY OWN FATHER'S FACE.

AS LOWLY AS I AM, HIS GRACE MAHENDRA KEPT ME AT HIS SIDE AND RAISED ME LIKE A SON.

GIGGLE くす

I-I'M SINCERELY SORRY... I WAS NOT CLEAR...

SO SERI-OUS.

THAT IS ALL.

I WISH TO REPAY MY DEBT TO HIM!

YES, MY LADY.

BRING JASWANT A COAT AND A WARM DRINK.

TO MY SHAME, I'VE NOT AN INKLING AS TWO WHICH OF MY OWN TWO FEUDING CHILDREN IS CORRECT.

I AM NOT OMNIPO-TENT...

IT SEEMS YOU HAVE SAID YOUR PIECES TO THE LAST WORD.

MY SONS.

THERE-FORE...

...I WILL HAVE TO LEAVE THIS JUDGMENT TO THE GODS.

MY SUCCES-SOR WILL BE DECIDED BY ADIKALANIA— A DUEL BE-FORE THE GODS.

...THE TWO OF US WILL SETTLE IT IN A DUEL...

THAT MEANS ...

IT WOULD BE TOO HORRIBLE FOR BROTHERS OF THE SAME FLESH AND BLOOD TO KILL EACH OTHER DIRECTLY.

IN-DEED.

YOUR MAJESTY! ISN'T THAT TOO MUCH...?

WHICHEVER OF YOU WINS SHALL BECOME SINDHURA'S KING.

GADHEVI. RAJEN-DRA.

YOU WILL BOTH CHOOSE A PROXY FOR THE DUEL FROM AMONG YOUR FRIENDS AND VASSALS.

ADIKA-
LANIA
?

TWO WHO ARE FIGHTING TAKE UP WEAPONS AND DUEL. THE ONE WHO WINS IS THE RIGHTEOUS ONE.

SUPPOSEDLY, KING KARIKALA IS GOING TO CHOOSE HIS FORMAL SUCCESSOR WITH IT.

I'M TOLD IT'S A SINDHURAN TRIAL OF RIGHTEOUS-NESS IN THE NAME OF THE GODS.

HA!

IT SEEMS THAT THE SINDHURAN KING DISLIKES TAKING RESPONSI-BILITY.

ONLY THIS TIME, THE PRINCES WON'T BE FIGHTING THEMSELVES. THEY'RE BEING ALLOWED TO USE PROXIES.

SHK

SHK

ONE THING IS CERTAIN. THIS WILL BE A SIGHT TO SEE.

WILL THE DEFEATED OBEDIENTLY ABIDE BY THE GODS' WILL...?

WHICH AMBITIOUS PRINCE WILL THE GODS FAVOR?

IT SOUNDS WISE, BUT HE'S REALLY PUSHING THE DECISION OFF ON TO THE GODS.

IT IS AS YOU SUG-GEST.

WILL THAT REALLY RESULT IN TRUE JUSTICE?

"THE STRONGER MAN WILL WIN, AND THE WINNER IS RIGHT." IS THAT HOW IT WILL BE?

HOWEVER, THERE IS A FINE ADVANTAGE TO THIS DUEL.

IF WE CONTINUE TO SMASH OUR ARMIES AGAINST EACH OTHER, NO MATTER WHO WINS, THERE WILL BE A GREAT NUMBER OF DEATHS.

HOWEVER, WITH AN *ADIKALANIA*, THE ONLY ONE TO DIE WILL BE THE DUEL'S LOSER.

I DID NOT ANTICIPATE THIS TURN OF EVENTS, EITHER, BUT LET US SAY THAT WE ARE FORTUNATE THAT THE FIGHTING WILL NOT BECOME PROLONGED.

EVEN IF THEY STRIKE ONE ANOTHER DOWN AT THE SAME TIME, THERE WILL ONLY BE TWO DEATHS.

FOR KING KARIKALA, IT IS LIKELY A DECISION OF NECESSITY.

I WOULD LIKE TO RETURN TO PESHAWAR FORTRESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND DEAL WITH OUR CRUCIAL STRUGGLE WITH LUSITANIA.

YES, WE CANNOT CONTINUE TO BE AWAY FROM PARS.

I SEE... THAT MAKES SENSE...

IF THERE IS GOING TO BE AN *ADIKALANIA*, WHO WILL PRINCE RAJENDRA NAME AS HIS PROXY?

シャッ SHK
シャッ SHK
シャッ

THE STRONGEST BRAVE OF WHOM RAJENDRA KNOWS WOULD BE...

YOUR HIGHNESS! PRINCE RAJENDRA IS HERE REQUESTING AN AUDIENCE!

SPEAK OF THE DEVIL!

...THE BLACK-CLAD PARSIAN KNIGHT WHO RIDES A BLACK HORSE.

SHK

I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD WILLINGLY ACCEPT...

IT IS A BOTHER.

I HAVE DECIDED TO ENTRUST EVERYTHING TO LORD DARYUN!

SHK SHK SHK SHK SHK SHK

I AM A SUBJECT OF HIS HIGHNESS ARSLAN.

UNLESS IT IS AN ORDER FROM HIS HIGHNESS, I CANNOT ACCEPT ANY REQUESTS.

INTER-PRET MY WORDS AS YOU SEE FIT.

SURELY YOU ARE NOT SAYING YOU LACK THE CONFIDENCE THAT YOU WOULD WIN THIS DUEL?

!!

PRINCE AR-SLAN!

ALI-

SLAM

GRRR

IS HE TELLING ME TO BOW MY HEAD AND BEG TO THIS PARSIAN PIPSQUEAK?

AS YOU WISH !!

I WANT LORD DARYUN TO BE MY PROXY IN THE ADI-KALANIA!!

I BEG OF YOU!

DAR-YUN...

CA-CLINK

THERE IS NO RULE THAT A FOREIGNER CANNOT BE A PROXY IN *ADIKALANIA*...

THAT KNIGHT IS NOT SIND-HURAN !!

WHAT?! THE BLACK-CLAD KNIGHT IS GOING TO BE RAJENDRA'S PROXY?!

THE COWARD ...!!

ぶち SNAP ぶち SNAP

ぶち SNAP ぶち SNAP

DAMN THAT RAJENDRA... WHEN WILL HE STOP USING PARS?!

MON-ST...

ISN'T THERE ANYONE ?!

SOME-ONE WHO CAN BEST THAT KNIGHT ...

SOMEONE WHO CAN DEFEAT THAT MONSTER ?!

B-BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

B-BOOM

B-BOOM

B-BOOM

AN EL-EPHANT ?

ぬっ

THOOM

BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM

OH!

THEY'RE COMING OUT!

CREEEAK

ドドド

しぼる
ぉぅ
ぉぅ
ぉぅ

WAAAAAAH

PRINCE RAJENDRA, WHO IS THAT MAN...?!

DAMN THAT GAD-HEVI ...

GADHEVI AND RAJENDRA'S RIGHTS TO THE KINGSHIP ARE ON THE LINE.

HE'S THE BRUTE ...

LET THE ADIKALANIA BEGIN!!

... BA-HA-DUR !!

To be continued...